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TOP LEVEL EXCHANGE
TAKES ON ORDINATION

DPS 86146

NEW YORK (DPS, July 10) -- An exchange of letters between the Vatican and the Archbishop of Canterbury on women's ordination has been welcomed by Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning, who called it a "mini-dialogue" on the thorny subject. An Anglican call for continuation of the dialogue seems to have been well-received.

In the exchange, standard papal objections and Roman Catholic and Anglican arguments are summarized fully and Vatican authorities acknowledge that the movement toward ordination of women has been undertaken on "the basis of serious theological conviction."

In a statement issued June 30, Browning said, "I believe it would be unfortunate to underestimate the gravity of this issue for the movement of convergence between Anglicans and Roman Catholics."

But he said he regarded pursuit of unity between the two traditions and commitment to opening holy orders to women as aims that were "not mutally exclusive."

Browning said the series of letters exchanged by top Anglican leader Archbishop Robert Runcie with Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Johannes Willebrands "should be read as a mini-dialogue on the question of admitting women to priestly ordination."

In the series of four letters published June 30, the Vatican reaffirmed its absolute opposition to women's ordination and warned that the practice creates serious obstacles for unity talks.

Saying that he believed the brief exchange of correspondence could not explore the questions deeply, "nor reflect all of our current experience," Browning endorsed Runcie's proposal for extended joint study of issues related to women's ordination, to be carried out by an augmented dialogue team that would include members of the current Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC).

Browning commended the Anglican archbishop for reporting on "the convictions and situation" of Anglicans on the issue to the Vatican after consulting with 27 regional Anglican primates at a March meeting in Toronto. While Runcie maintains that women priests should not be ordained until Anglicanism has reached wider consensus, he pointed out that "a number of Anglican churches have already come to a decision."

Browning proposed that dialogue among Anglicans be continued "through a process of the various provinces deciding in their symods on the basis of doctrinal reasons, sharing their decision and therefore helping one another to decide." The recent formation of an Anglican working group to gather responses from Anglican bodies around the world is an example of such an approach, he said.

"The Episcopal Church has proceeded to the ordination of women on the basis of serious and convincing theological reasons which it is willing to share with other churches," said Browning. "We intend, not to depart from the traditional catholic doctrine of holy orders, but to expand and open it to the other half of the human race."

In the exchange, Runcie said some Anglicans were convinced not only that there are no "fundamental objections" to ordaining women in Scripture or tradition, but that substantial doctrinal reasons "actually require it."

He said both Anglican and Roman Catholic doctrine holds that the humanity taken on by Christ and which became "the risen and ascended humanity of the Lord of all creation must be a humanity inclusive of women" for them to share redemption.

Consequently, Runcie adds, some Anglicans point up the "representative nature" of the priesthood and its "special sacramental relationship with Christ as High Priest in whom complete humanity is redeemed."

Because that "includes male and female, it is thus urged that the ministerial priesthood should now be open to women in order the more perfectly to represent Christ's inclusive High Priesthood," Runcie said.

He said the argument is that "the representational nature of the ministerial priesthood is actually weakend by a solely male priesthood."

Willebrands cites an "unbroken tradition" of ordaining only men as a standard set by "the practice of Christ and the apostles" from which the Church could not deviate.

He said the Church understands itself in "feminine imagery" as a body of which Christ is the head and that "we can never ignore the fact that Christ is a man."

"The ordination only of men to the priesthood has to be understood in terms of the intimate relationship between Christ the Redeemer and those who...cooperate in Christ's redemptive work," Willebrands said.

"The priest represents Christ in his saving relationship with his body, the Church. He does not primarily represent the priesthood of the whole people of God."

Willebrands said the Anglican arguments "cannot count as reasons for the radical innovation of ordaining women to the priesthood."

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Eds: Bishop Browning's statement is attached.



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Statement by
The Most Reverend Edmond Lee Browning
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, USA
Exchange of Correspondence between Pope John Paul, II
The Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal
Johannes Willebrands on
The Admission of Women to Priestly Ordination
June 30, 1986

The exchange of letters by Pope John Paul, II and the Archbishop of Canterbury, and by the Archbishop and Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, should be read as a mini-dialogue on the question of admitting women to priestly ordination.

The Pope quotes his predecessor, Paul VI, who spoke of the ordination of women as introducing into the dialogue "an element of grave difficulty," even a "threat." The Archbishop says no one anticipates that the path toward full church unity will be without difficulties, and agrees that the difference on the issue is "grave." I believe it would be unfortunate to underestimate the gravity of this issue for the movement of convergence between Anglicans and Roman Catholics.

Serious doctrinal reasons are put forward by the Archbishop and the Cardinal for and against priestly ordination of women. However, a correspondence of such limited length cannot explore the questions deeply, nor reflect all of our current experience. I therefore endorse the Archbishop's proposal of an extended joint study of these issues, using an augmented Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC).

Episcopalians will wish to express appreciation to the Archbishop for his reporting of the convictions and situation of Anglicans on this issue after consulting the 27 regional primates of the Anglican Communion. On a number of occasions already, he has expressed the conviction, which is shared by some other Anglicans, that action should not be taken to ordain women to the priesthood until there is a wider consensus in our churches. A number of Anglican Provinces have already come to a decision on this issue. I would hope that all the churches of the Anglican Communion can continue an open consultation on such an important contemporary question through a process of the various provinces deciding in their synods on the basis of doctrinal reasons, sharing their decisions and thereby helping one another to decide. An example of this process is the recent meeting of the Anglican primates in Toronto where the Archbishop formed a working group to gather provincial responses.

As our churches move forward in consultations and dialogue, I, as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, uphold two points which are not mutually exclusive. First, we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church, so we are committed to the ecumenical dialogue for the sake of koinonia or fellowship that should bind it together in the unity of faith. Second, the Episcopal Church has proceeded to the ordination of women on the basis of serious and convincing theological reasons which it is willing to share with other churches. We intend, not to depart from the traditional catholic doctrine of holy orders, but to expand and open it to the other half of the human race. Like all the authors of these letters, I am confident that the Holy Spirit will show us the way forward.

CANADIANS CHOOSE WESTERN ECUMENTST

DPS 86147

WINNIPEG (DPS, July 10) -- A 51-year-old bishop from Western Canada has been elected the 11th primate of the Anglican Church of Canada by clergy and lay delegates at the Church's synod, meeting at the University of Manitoba.

Bishop Michael Geoffrey Peers, Archbishop of Rupert Island, was elected June 16 on the fifth ballot to head the 900,000-member denomination. He succeeded Archbishop E. W. (Ted) Scott, who has held the office for 15 years.

"My main concern is that we show during adversity the same openness and generosity which we have often shown in prosperity," Peers said.

He listed Christian unity, interfaith understanding and proclamation of the gospel "free of many of the conventions and customs of a previous age" as among the major challenges he will face as primate.

Peers also said he would be prepared to consecrate a woman as a bishop, although as primate he will no longer be consecrating bishops. He opposes capital punishment, saying he could see Jesus as a victim of crucifixion but, "I cannot, for the life of me, see him as the executioner."

Although it took five ballots to elect him, Peers led the voting from the beginning. There were five nominees in all, selected by the bishops, who were sequestered in a parish hall a block from St. John's Cathedral. The bishops were informed of the balloting results only after Peers and been elected.

They then marched in a procession back to the cathedral, where Peers was greeted with a standing ovation and given assurances of support and loyalty from bishops, clergy and laity.

The Vancouver-born Peers is the first Canadian Anglican primate who can speak French fluently, a talent which could be an important boost to the church in Quebec. He received an honors degree in Slavic studies from the University of British Columbia and last year preached in Russian while visiting the Soviet Union as part of an ecumenical Canadian delegation.

He learned German while studying at the University of Heidelberg. He also speaks Polish and is learning Chinese "just for fun."

He was ordained a priest in 1960, at age 26. He served in two Ottawa parishes before moving to Winnipeg in 1966. In 1974, he was appointed rector of St. Paul's Cathedral in Regina and dean of the diocese of Qu'Appelle. He became the bishop of the diocese in 1977, and in 1982 he was elected archbishop of Rupert's Land.

He has been appointed chairman of the ecumenical section of the 1988 Lambeth Conference, the once-a-decade conference of the world's Anglican bishops. His experience in Russian and Slavic studies has given him a natural role in international Anglican-Orthodox dialogue.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AIDS

SUDANESE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DPS 86148

NEW YORK (DPS, July 10) -- In an unusual move, Catholic Relief Services has pledged \$535,802 towards the relief and development activities of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

Among the projects being supported is the Lainya Vocational Training Center, which received \$136,802 for its "excellent work" in training refugees and local Sudanese in such skills as brickmaking, carpentry, metalwork and agricultural extension techniques. Bruce Woodcock, a overseas development officer at the Episcopal Church Center, said, "The program is innovative because it's not just relief and handouts but skills training, so the people can go out and make a living." The initial \$84,000 has already been sent, with the balance to be awarded following evaluation next year.

The grant was made after the program's supervisor, Dr. Gordon Wagner of the Episcopal Church of Sudan Development and Relief Department, visited here with Archbishop Elinana Ngalamu in March of this year. The principal of the training center, Thomas Kedini, was trained in planning, management and evaluation at the UCLA Development Institute sponsored by the Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and Overseas Development Office.

Catholic Relief Services joins such groups as the Overseas Development Office, the Fund, the Ford Foundation, the Tear Fund (the Netherlands) and the Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia -- which has a long-term Companion relationship with the Episcopal Church of the Sudan -- in aiding these relief and development efforts. A Venture in Mission grant of \$100,000 from Southwestern Virginia is also at work there.

Another Catholic Relief Services grant, this one for \$70,000, will go to the development credit and marketing service being implemented by the Episcopal Church of the Sudan's Development and Relief Department. \$50,000 will go to provide a revolving cooperative food production fund and \$20,000 for the construction of improved grain storage facilities. Catholic Relief Services has approved \$299,000 total for this cooperative program. Release of the funding will be geared to the

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Church's ability to continue project activities during the current security situation.

The need for the credit and marketing service was underscored by a recent phone conversation with Volunteer for Mission Christopher Carr, who is working in the southern Sudan. Carr reported that "the food shortage in Juba (southern Sudan) is very severe. Several food riots have nearly erupted as the price of a bag of sorghum has doubled over the past few weeks."

World Mission support for the Episcopal Church of the Sudan has involved many units at the Church Center. Currently, there are two Volunteers for Mission, one appointed missionary and two Overseas Development Office consultants working in the southern Sudan. Funding support for these and other Episcopal Church programs has been provided by the Presiding Bishop's Fund, the United Thank Offering and the Overseas Development Office.

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CUOMO DONATES

SPEECH \$'S TO TUTU

DPS 86149

NEW YORK (DPS, July 10) -- New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo has donated a \$2,000 honorarium he received to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, to be used for Bishop Desmond Tutu's work in South Africa.

Cuomo was given the honorarium for publication of a speech entitled, "Parents and Work: Family Policy in Comparative Perspective" which he delivered before the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. in February of last year. In a letter addressed to Tutu in care of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief here, the governor said he wanted to help "continue the good work of your charitable projects in South Africa." He added, "The family of New York wishes you well in your continued fight against apartheid."

In replying to the governor, Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning told him: "yours was a deeply moving gesture and will, I feel sure, greatly encourage Bishop Tutu." Through the Presiding Bishop's Fund, the Church has contributed more than \$300,000 in three years to support humanitarian projects in Southern Africa, including \$20,000 sent to Tut through the actions of General Convention last fall.

The governor has been a consistent supporter of Bishop Tutu and, in his 1984 Democratic National Convention keynote address, cited his courageous ministry. His efforts to bring about disinvestment of New York State funds have been stalled by Comptroller Edward Regan (R) and the Republican-controlled State Senate. Spokesmen for the Governor assured DPS that disinvestment remained a high priority with Cuomo, who has promised to campaign vigorously against legislators who have opposed his programs.



ADOPTS NEW FOCUS

DPS 86150

LEXINGTON, Ky. (DPS, July 10) — Responding to a failure to win accreditation and to declining endowment, sweeping changes in the format of the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Kentucky were instituted when the Board of Trustees met here, on May 15 and 16.

The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Bishop of Lexington, was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees and agreed to assume the role of dean and rector of the institution. Wimberly announced his intention to honor the commitments previously made by the Seminary but provided a comprehensive plan for total restructuring which would call for diocesan commitment to a program emphasizing the vocational diaconate, continuing education events for laity and clergy and innovative programs of training and outreach. The Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion degrees would be relegated to a tertiary position.

Wimberly, in a meeting with the executive council of the Diocese, gained their unanimous approval for plans of renovation and redirection of the seminary. Wimberly announced that a full-time director of studies would be hired to develop curriculum and programs that would better serve the needs of the Church and would allow the seminary to assume a viable and vital role in professional training of candidates for the diaconate, Christian Education personnel and program development, and provide a regional center for quality continuing education for the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Theological Seminary in Kentucky was founded by the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, the first Bishop of Kentucky. The Commonwealth of Kentucky chartered the Seminary in 1834. The school operated for a time but intervening circumstances resulted in the closing of the institution. The charter under which the Episcopal Seminary in Kentucky operated was still extant in 1951 when the institution was reopened.

DPS 86150/2

During the past 35 years of operation, the seminary has trained several hundred persons for both ordained and lay ministries. Nevertheless, due to declining enrollment and failure to attain accreditation, the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Kentucky realized that new directions and emphases were imperative.

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WORK BEGINS ON HYMNAL COMPANION

DPS 86151

NEW YORK (DPS, July 10) -- With the development and production of the <u>Hymnal 1982</u> completed, the Church Hymnal Corporation has indicated that work is beginning on the <u>Companion to the Hymnal 1982</u>. Frank Hemlin, vice president and manager of Church Hymnal Corporation, has announced that Raymond F. Glover (fresh from his editorial experience with the new hymnal) will edit the new companion.

An Editorial Advisory Committee has been appointed by the publisher and is composed of the publisher, Hemlin; the editor, Glover; and, three outside consultants: Dr. Carol Doran, the Rev. Robin A. Leaver and representing the Standing Commission on Church Music, the Rev. Dr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. Daw is the vicar of St. Mark's Chapel and Chaplain to Episcopal Students at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn. He was a member of the text committee of the Commission which prepared the Hymnal 1982 and currently serves a member of the Commission on Liturgy and Music for the Diocese of Connecticut. He is still a member of the Commission on and the author of eleven texts or portions of text that appear in the Hymnal 1982.

Doran is Associate Professor of Church Music and director of community worship at Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley
Hall/Crozier Theological Seminary. She is a member of the editorial advisory board of Hymnal 1982, and has served as president of the Association of Anglican Musicians. She is the co-chair for the Commission on Liturgy and Music for the Diocese of Rochester and is a well-known author and composer.

Leaver is associate professor of Church Music at Westminister Choir College in Princeton, N.J. He is the President of the International Fellowship for Research in Hymnology and is a noted author.

This group, which held its organizational meetinghere in June will meet on a regular basis to set guidelines and standards for the of material to be included in the Companion. The project, which should take almost four years to complete, will yield a volume of more than two thousand pages, including biographies, charts, facsimiles, musical examples, extensive indexes and cross references. In addition to this, there will be twelve major essays and six hundred individual hymn commentaries.

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PANAMA SPONSORS ANGLICANISM STUDY

DPS 86152

PANAMA (DPS, July 10) — Thirteen Anglicans from throughout Latin America, including laypeople, bishops and other clergy, will participate in a "Symposium on Latin American Anglicanism" sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Panama. The Symposium will be held in Panama City from Sept. 9-12, 1986.

Theme of the Symposium will be "We Are Anglicans." Its purpose is to draw together representatives from the various Anglican churches of Latin America to share theological reflection in the light of their experience. It is also hoped that the meetings will encourage the production of theological resources and the development of Anglicanism authentically rooted in the cultures and settings of the region. Papers will be edited for publication following the Symposium.

Topics to be addressed in the Symposium include the following: What is Latin American Anglicanism?; Anglicanism's Mission in Latin America; Anglican Unity and Latin American Diversity; the Bible and Latin American Anglicanism; the Authority of the Church; the Ministry of the Church; the Sacraments of the Church; the Communion of Saints; Women in the Anglican Churches; the Liturgy and Latin American Anglicanism; Anglicanism and Ecumenism; Anglicans and the Structural Problems of Latin America; and Towards the Future: Projections and Obstacles.

All sessions of the Symposium will be open to the public. Lodging will be available at reasonable rates at the hotel where sessions

will be held.

Those persons who wish more information are invited to contact the Rev. Dr. John L. Kater, Education Officer of the Diocese of Panama. He can be reached at Apartado R, Balboa, Republic of Panama.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

COUNCIL HOLDS MEETING

DPS 86153

by Salome Breck

GRAPEVINE, Texas (DPS, July 10) -- Timing, place and enthusiasm combined to produce what was described as "the best meeting yet of the Council for Women's Ministries," held May 29-June 1 at the Bishop Mason Conference Center here.

It was the seventh session of the Council. Organized in June 1983, the group meets twice a year and consists of two representatives from each national organization and racial group of Episcopal women.

The Council's purpose was defined at its earliest meeting: "To bring together the leaders of the women in the Episcopal Church; to increase the effectiveness of women's ministries; to support the different gifts, values and ministries of women; and to advance the roles of women in the mission of the Church."

Program for each session is planned by a design team made up from volunteers. This time, the team consisted of Mattie Hopkins of Chicago, chair and convenor; Marcy Walsh of Summerville, S.C., Episcopal Church Women president and co-convenor; Dee Beggs, Grand Rapids, Mich., from the Episcopal Women's Caucus; Ann Smith, coordinator of Women in Mission and Ministry, Episcopal Church Center; Bindy Snyder, Memphis, Tenn., representing Episcopal Communicators; and Laraine Dennstaedt, coordinator. The theme was the exploration of ways in which members might become more effective "Ambassadors for Christ."

Kathy Tyler Scott, a consultant, presented a condensed version of "assertiveness training," which is included in the Leadership Training Program available to Episcopal women's groups through Smith's office. Numbers of dioceses and provinces have now made the program available to their women.

Walsh reported on the first meeting of the Presiding Bishop's Task Force on the status of Women's Ministries. Requested by General Convention and called by Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning, the Task Force is headed by Pam Chinnis of Washington, D.C.

The Council asked that the following issues be considered by this Task Force: the program offered in theological seminaries; equal participation — intentional decision—making; adequate funding for women's work; leadership training made more readily available; the removal of "isms" (racial, etc.) from the action of the Church; continuing education for clergy; the encouragement of support for women by women; equal pay—economic parity; no more "studies on women" ("We have been studied to death" was the consensus of the Council." Some 50 studies in the last few years don't make sense when 63 percent of the Church membership consists of women. We are able to plan our own way.")

Smith did a brief overview of some of the concerns of Women in Mission and Ministry: economic justice for many women; women in prison; the development of a total task force of women and men; "latch key" programs; and help for sexually abused children. Material on many of these subjects is available from Smith's office.

Saturday was "community day" with guests from the area joining the conference. More Council reports were given. Ann Fontaine, Lander, N.Y., new representative appointed by Browning from Executive Council, spoke. Smith described the proposed changes in structure at the Church Center and reported progress on the "Anglican Women's Network." Eleanor Smith, art editor, and Salome Breck, editor of The Journal of Women's Ministries, sponsored by the Council, gave a progress report. The editor may be contacted at 2060 St. St. Paul, Denver, CO 80210 for copies and subscription forms. Esther Tun Klaing from Burma's Mothers' Union, was a visitor and described women's work in that country.

More information on the Council, can be obtained from Smith's office at 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

LUTHERAN-EPISCOPAL COVENANT AFFIRMED

DPS 86154

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (DPS, July 10) -- An historic covenant between Episcopalians and Lutherans in Northeast Pennsylvania has received the official approval of both the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

Ratified by the conventions of the synod last week and the diocese last December after several years of development by the ecumenical committees of both churches, the agreement sets forth eight principles which call upon the synod and diocese "to work together, wherever possible, in every aspect of ministry...in order to avoid unnecessary duplication, gain strength in shared resources, provide more effective ministry and gain visible expression to the unity we have in Christ."

The agreement commits the churches to "strive faithfully" for the following goals: mutual prayer — both on the diocesan/synod and congregational levels; encouragement and support of similar covenants on the parish level; opportunities for joint worship, study and mission on the synodical/diocesan level; also on that level, for sharing and liaisons between committees, task forces, etc. with similar goals; the presence of "official observers" at each other's conventions and governing board meetings; a continued close working relationship between bishops, staffs and ecumenical committees; consideration of joint use of facilities; and a yearly review of the commitment through existing ecumenical committees.

The covenant is believed to be the first formal relationship of its kind between an Episcopal diocese and a Lutheran synod. The Lutheran convention which ratified the covenant also invited Bishop Mark Dyer of the Diocese of Bethlehem to serve as guest chaplain, making him the first to do so. (Eds. See DPS 86071)

Following the unanimous vote of the delegates last week, a vote accompanied by a standing ovation for Dyer and Lutheran Synod Bishop Harold Weiss, Weiss stated, "I want to have you know of the

determination which Bishop Dyer and I have to make this something which will be more than words on paper and to make it something which will be a tribute to our churches, but more than that, something which will help make the mission and ministry of God apparent and real in our two communions."

"The Covenant commits us to a process," Dyer continued,
"represents an historic moment of Church unity -- not simply because it
is a 'first,' but because of the opportunity to experience and witness
the unity it represents. I truly felt at the Synod convention a strong
sense of common belief and commitment to Christ."

Dyer, who serves on the National Theological Committee for Unity between Lutherans and Episcopalians, told convention delegates that the agreement is "part of the worldwide effort between the Anglican and Lutheran churches" and that it is "very important to us to be a model here. We are the first to make this kind of covenant."

"We understand," he concluded, "that implementation will take a great deal of work, but work that is worthwhile because it is the will of God that we be one. It will be fulfilled only if we are faithful to the first principle of the Covenant. That is, if we pray...together ...and for each other."

Picture Captions

COUNCIL GREETS ATLANTA MAYOR

DPS 86155

(86155) — Presiding Bishop Edmond Lee Browning (left) and the Very Rev. David Collins, chat with Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young before the latter addressed the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church at its recent meeting there. Young's comments came in the midst of a day long examination by Council of the Church's ministries with the poor and oppressed, especially those coordinated through Jubilee Ministries. The Mayor told of the inter-racial economic cooperation which had enabled Atlanta to overcome some of the recent economic woes.

Texas Priest is National Swim Champion

DPS 86156

(86156) "In Masters Swimming, you look forward to being older," says Dr. Philip Parham, an Episcopal priest and this year's winner in his age group of the Master's Swimming National Championship. "Age lets you compete in a new group." He had the best time in the 55-60 year-old competition in the 1,650 yard swim in the national competition held in May at Fort Pierce, Fla. His winning time was 21 minutes, 20 seconds. Parham, a psychologist/priest, is director of the Pastoral Center of St. Paul's Church, San Antonio. He swims about two miles a day in his home pool and with the San Antonio Aquatic Club, where he serves as chaplain and team psychologist. "Good athletes today recognize the importance of a holistic harmony of body, mind and soul," he comments. "Not only do I swim with them, I also help them develop healthy mental and spiritual attitudes; and that can be the difference between a good swimmer and a real winner." Parham was a varsity swimmer (Yale '52) but stopped soon after graduation. Five years ago, to help an asthmatic condition and to exercise an injured leg, he took up swimming again. He found that the sport had become high-tech in the last 30 years. "Today, competitive swimming is 70 percent technique and about 30 percent strength; and that area of technique definitely includes one's self-image and spiritual focus." A week before the Fort Pierce meet, he broke the national record in his age group for the 1,000 yard freestyle event with a brisk time of 12 minutes 54 seconds.